

EMERGENCY NEWS



Washington State
Emergency Management



King County



Pierce County

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No federal assistance, but community resources still available for December windstorm victims

CAMP MURRAY, WASH. – State and local officials have determined the damages from a windstorm in early December were insufficient to qualify for federal disaster assistance.

However, some potential resources are still available for residents or business owners who suffered damages not covered by insurance or conventional loans—see below.

Strong winds and rain Dec. 2-5 knocked out power to more than 200,000 homes in the Central Puget Sound area. In the process, some homes and businesses suffered significant damage and disruption, particularly in King and Pierce counties.

Since the windstorm, emergency management offices in Pierce and King have fielded hundreds of calls reporting damages, but most callers were covered by insurance. An assessment conducted last weekend by the King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Pierce County Emergency Management, Washington State Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency did not yield enough damaged structures to qualify for federal disaster relief.

In lieu of federal assistance, windstorm victims who did not have insurance and are unable to obtain a loan to repair damages still have community resources that may be able to help:

The **Pierce County Dept. of Community Services Housing Program**, (253) 798-7038, may be able to provide repair services to address emergency health and safety issues in the home. Information is also available on the Internet at www.piercecountywa.org. Go to "Community Services" in the county directory and then choose "Housing Programs."

The **King County Housing Repair Program**, (206) 296-7640, or (800) 325-6165, ext. 7640, may be able to provide 0% interest loans and grants for housing repairs for low and moderate income homeowners living in the county outside Seattle. Information is also available on the Internet at www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/Housing/Repair.htm. Call to see if you qualify.

The **Washington Faith-Based Disaster Recovery Network**, (877) 255-1155, may be able to provide services on a case-by-case basis.

Officials in both Pierce County and King County praised the public for their cooperation in the damage assessment process and for carrying the appropriate hazard insurance.

"I would like to commend the more than 300 residents who called to report damages to their properties, many of whom also had appropriate hazard insurance on their property," said King County Executive Ron Sims. "This windstorm and the resulting economic damages were minimized by people having property insurance. This is one of the best ways for residents to protect their homes and families."